

KAMLOOPS RAINBOW TROUT

Salmo gairdnerii kamloops



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

While these fish are young, they have a distinctive appearance, but as they become older they are more difficult to distinguish from other subspecies of rainbow. In the smaller fish the tail is distinctly forked, the eye is relatively large, the parr marks are clearly defined, and the spotting is limited to the back. However, these characteristics are all relative and cannot be appreciated fully without having the other kinds of rainbow for comparison.

“The typical silvery fish of large lakes is bluish above, with light silvery sides and belly. The spots are comparatively small and v-shaped, and are located chiefly above the lateral line, although there are a few below the line in front, but more posteriorly on the caudal peduncle. There are also a few rounded spots on the top of the head and behind the eye. The dorsal and caudal fins are spotted; the anal usually has a few spots at the base and the pectoral on the anterior ray; the ventral is usually without spots. Except for the spots, the fins are white or faintly clouded. The chin and lower jaw are usually quite black.” The preceding description is given by J. R. Dymond for Kamloops of large lakes in their homeland of British Columbia.

The Kamloops rainbow in the illustration above is a yearling or a two-year-old fish. These young fish have a much more streamlined body shape than do those which have grown old and heavy bodied.

DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

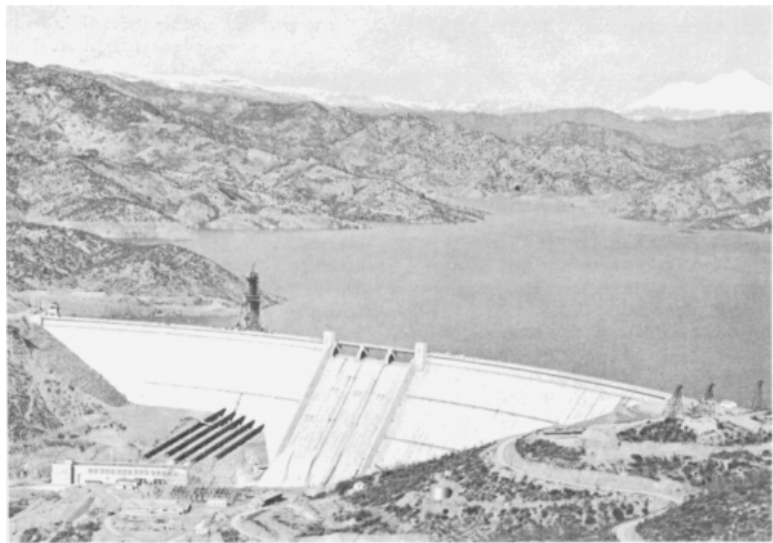
The Kamloops rainbow was introduced into California in June, 1950, when 1,000 yearlings were released in Shasta Lake, Shasta County. Since that time, other plants have been made, but their distribution is still limited.

INTERESTING FACTS

The Kamloops rainbow were brought to California from British Columbia by the sportsmen of Redding, Shasta County, on the strength of the reputation which they had gained in Idaho and British Columbia. A number of individuals weighing over 30 pounds have been caught by anglers in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho. The record fish weighed 37 pounds.

The smaller Kamloops will take a fly very readily and put up a spectacular battle. In British Columbia they are regarded as equal to fresh-run steelhead rainbow in their fighting ability.

This trout was originally described by David Starr Jordan in 1892 from specimens caught in Kamloops Lake, British Columbia.



Shasta Lake, first California home of Kamloops rainbow trout.